

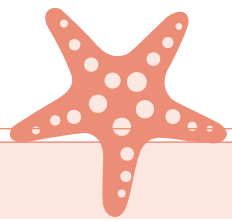


SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

BEAUTY OF DREAMS

"The Future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
-Eleanor Roosevelt





The Starfish Story

ADAPTED FROM *THE STAR THROWER*
BY LOREN EISELEY [1907 - 1977]

Once upon a time, there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing.
He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.

One day, as he was walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure
moving like a dancer.

He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day,
and so, he walked faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all.
The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean.

He came closer still and called out "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young man paused, looked up, and replied
"Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man.

To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles
of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean.

As it met the water, he said, "I made a difference to that one!"



Making a difference in the life of a youth... that is what this calendar is all about.

Thinking of becoming a foster parent?

Think hard and then give us a call! It is a serious and big commitment but one filled with countless rewards.

Can't be a foster parent?

That is okay, we have many other opportunities for you! There are many ways to make a difference in the life of a youth and we hope this calendar helps to build awareness in our community that we have many youth in need of the value you can add. Youth in our community need permanent connections. Youth can never have too many caring adults in their life, throughout their life. At different stages of our lives, we have all needed or wanted a mentor, a tutor, a life coach, music lessons, introduction to the arts, sports, or education, encouragement, and a place to come home to for the holidays... our youth need and want these things also.

Please use and enjoy this calendar. Consider the many strengths, skills and interests you possess that would add great value in the life of a youth and make a big difference.

Thank you!



Tracy Buckingham,
Assistant Director , Department of Social Services



Kevin | 15 years

Kevin is a friendly, talkative, and inquisitive individual. He is both a talented musician and athlete who plays a variety of instruments by ear and is involved in track and field. Through Future Farmers of America, Kevin raised and showed a pig for last year's fair. He has recently taken an interest in horse back riding and roping.

How to help:

Kevin would like to be part of a permanent family. Do you have room in your life for this enjoyable young man?

Thanks to:

Harris Stage Lines
Photographer Donna Johnson

december 2010



notes:

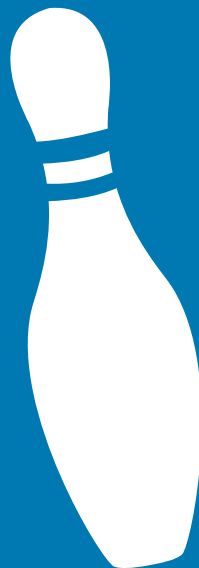
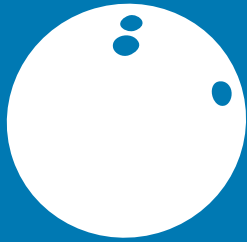
Aspiranet

Aspiranet supports foster children, siblings, families, and the community with 35 core programs offering specialized services throughout California including the Central Coast. Founded in 1975 as a six-bed group home in Moss Beach, Aspiranet is now one of the most diverse non-profit social service agencies in the state and has touched the lives of over 10,000 families and children. Aspiranet provides Family Services, Foster Care, Adoption, Education, After School programs, and Community Partnerships.

For more information:

<http://www.aspiranet.org>
805-473-8760

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	Christmas Eve	Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	New Year's Eve	



Manual | 16 years

Manual is a likeable young man who has many talents both in academics and athletics. He has become an excellent bowler and currently is part of a bowling league. Manual is a hardworking, optimistic individual with the desire to attend college. He wants to major in business and minor in psychology.

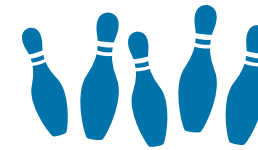
How to help:

Manual has an interest in general construction. Do you have construction knowledge you would like to share with Manual or financial resources to help him complete college?

Thanks to:

Pismo Bowl
Photographer Brian Owens

january 2011



notes:

Grizzly Youth Academy

Grizzly Youth Academy is a FREE 5½ month residential military charter high school. GYA's goal is to educate students through a non-traditional learning environment that addresses life, leadership and academic skills, while improving self-esteem, pride and confidence levels. It is a voluntary program for 16 to 18 year old at-risk youth.

For more information:
www.ngycp.org/ca
 800-926-0643

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						New Year's Day 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Martin Luther King Day					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24					
30	31	25	26	27	28	29



Rose | 14 years

Rose is a caring, family-oriented young woman who has a passion for music and dancing. She enjoys listening to music, shopping, and watching movies. Her future goals are to attend college and become a choreographer. Rose is very athletic and also enjoys playing volleyball.

How to help:

Rose identifies strongly with her African-American background. She would like to connect with a family that would be willing to take her to an African-American church and support her background in any way possible. Do you have room in your life to support Rose with the goals that are important to her?

Thanks to:

Street Heat Dance Co.
Photographer Donna Johnson

february 2011



notes:

SLO County Y

The SLO County Y offers action-packed activities for children, teens, adults, and seniors. Fitness classes, camps, teen leadership, before and after school, family, and sports programs take place county wide from Paso Robles, Atascadero, and Cambria, to San Luis Obispo, and the Five Cities area. SLO County Y programs are designed to build strong kids, strong families, and strong communities.

For more information:

SLO County Y Fitness
Facility
www.sloymca.org
805-543-8235

1020 Southwood Drive
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			Groundhog Day			
		1	2	3	4	5
					Lincoln's Birthday	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Valentine's Day					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Presidents' Day					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					



Thomas | 15 years

Thomas has a wide variety of interests including cars and mechanics, reptiles, working out, and music. This quiet young man has a charming personality and is sure to make you laugh once you get to know him. In the future, Thomas would like to go to college to become a graphic artist and design video games.

How to help:

Thomas would like the opportunity to continue guitar lessons and the chance to pursue his college dreams. Do you have the resources to help Thomas achieve his goals?

Thanks to:

Central Coast Music &
Conservatory
Photographer Crista Whitney

march 2011



notes:

Cuesta College's WIA Youth Employment Program

The program targets high school seniors and out-of-school youth who reside in SLO County. This program increases educational opportunities, explores career options, participates in adult and peer mentoring, and provides meaningful subsidized work experience opportunities. In order to be eligible, youth must meet income requirements and eligibility.

For more information:

Jenn Kirn, Youth Programs
Supervisor
Jennifer_Kirn@cuesta.edu

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Daylight Savings	7	8	9	10 St. Patrick's Day	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Michael | 18 years

Michael is a social, motivated youth who likes to be involved in the community. He enjoys taking Aikido classes where he learns self defense. His interests include skateboarding, basketball, video games, and shopping. Michael is a young man with great wit and an easy going personality.

How to help:

Michael would like to work with computers in the future. Do you have the skills or resources that could help him learn computer science?

Thanks to:

Aikido SLO
Photographer Donna Thrussel

april 2011

national child abuse prevention month



notes:

Safe-SLO/ Aikido SLO

Safe-SLO is a volunteer-run 501 (c) 3 non-profit whose mission is to provide alternatives to violence through high-quality safety and empowerment programs for children, teens, adults, families, groups, and agencies in SLO County. Instruction is provided by highly skilled professionals, whose donated time reflects their commitment to empowering others with alternatives to violence.

For more information:

safeslo@me.com
www.aikidoslo.com
 805-544-8866

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					April Fools Day	
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					Tax Day	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Easter						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Angie | 14 years

Angie is a smart, fun-loving young woman who loves animals, sports, and Justin Bieber. She enjoys watching the Lakers play basketball and being part of a soccer team. In the future, Angie would like to be an attorney, policewoman, or join the Navy.

How to help:

Angie hopes to be part of a permanent family and be supported with all her goals and interests. Do you have room in your life for this active young woman?

Thanks to:

Cal Poly Soccer
Photographer Steve Udell

may 2011 national foster care month



notes:

A Foster Family is...

Foster families nurture, love and advocate for children until their families are able to do so.

They have the willingness and spirit to learn to support and embrace a child's family.

They are valued and respected as expert partners in child welfare services.

For more information:

www.slocounty.ca.gov/dss
805-781-1705

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				Cinco de Mayo		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Mother's Day						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Memorial Day					
29	30	31				



Eli | 18 years

Eli is an energetic young man with a charismatic personality and an infectious smile. He is passionate about sports and would like to be an assistant for a college football team one day. Eli always has a positive attitude and shows great kindness toward others.

How to help:

Eli is interested in increasing his reading, writing, and basic living and working skills in order to be successful as an independent adult. Eli welcomes community members to help him with these goals. Is this someone you could help support?

Thanks to:

King Gardening Services
Photographer Vanessa Plakias

o june 2011



notes:

Positive Opportunities For Parenting Success

P.O.P.S. offers free, parenting-based communication workshops led by licensed marriage and family therapists.

Goals of the program include:

- Strengthening family communication
- Increasing positive father-child involvement
- Identifying family stressors
- Improving the quality of the relationship between father and mother to benefit the well being of the child

For more information:

www.capslo.org
805-474-2018
or 805-474-2141

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Father's Day		1st Day of Summer				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Tony, Taylor & Cassie
16, 14 & 12 years

These awesome siblings have similar and varying interests. Tony is a charming, athletic young man who enjoys football and golf and hopes to become an architect. Taylor has an outgoing personality and enjoys hanging out with friends. She would like to open her own salon or become a lawyer. Cassie is a courageous, friendly individual who likes soccer and hopes to attend college someday.

How to help:

Tony, Taylor, and Cassie would like to spend more time together doing fun activities. Each of them would also benefit from resources for their college goals. Are you able to help support these siblings with their future aspirations?

Thanks to:

Boomers
Photographer Rachel Owens

july 2011



notes:

Independent Living Program

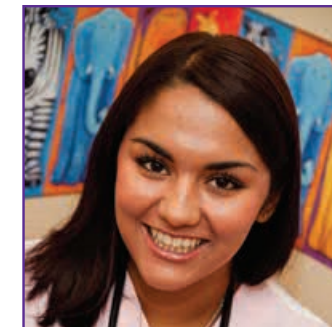
ILP empowers youth through education, life skills training, advocacy, workforce development, and community collaboration.

ILP participants develop leadership, perseverance, and integrity, while establishing lifelong connections that encourage self-sufficiency, independence, and permanency in all aspects of family and community.

For more information:

Katie McCain
kmccain@co.slo.ca.us
805-781-1700

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
	Independence Day					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Parent's Day 24						
31	25	26	27	28	29	30



Mariah | 18 years

Mariah is a responsible, caring, determined individual who recently graduated from high school. She plans to attend a community college in the fall where she will take classes to work towards fulfilling her life passion of becoming a nurse. She wants to work with children, possibly those with disabilities. She is also interested in working abroad in developing countries.

How to help:

Mariah would like the opportunity to continue her education at a four year university. Do you have nursing experience/advice you would like to share with Mariah or resources to help her continue her education?

Thanks to:

Dr. Susan Hoffman
Photographer April Wise

august 2011



notes:

Martha's Place

Martha's Place serves at risk children 0-5 years of age.

Services include:

- Medical examinations
- Cognitive/behavioral/psychological/emotional/social evaluations
- Mental health therapy
- Occupational therapy/sensory integration
- Family support
- Parent education
- Case management

services support each child in reaching their full potential.
Early intervention can make the difference of a lifetime!

For more information:
805-781-4948

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Kyle | 17 years

Kyle is a hard-working, respectful young man with many interests. He enjoys being with friends and playing football. Kyle wants to study auto mechanics and play football on a college team. He hopes to someday join the fire academy or the Army.

How to help:

Kyle would like to expand his knowledge of auto mechanics as well as his other interests. Do you have the financial resources to help Kyle achieve his goals?

Thanks to:

Cal Fire
Photographer Kevin Daugherty

september 2011



notes:

CASA of San Luis Obispo County (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

Trains community volunteers to work with children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected.

A qualified volunteer establishes a relationship with a child, advocates for needed services, reports to the court on the child's situation and makes recommendations to the court about the child's placement.

Volunteers usually visit the child weekly and continue as an advocate and mentor until a permanent placement is made for the child.

For more information:

CASA of SLO
www.slocasa.org
805-541-6542

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
	Labor Day					
4 Grandparents Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



Chantal | 15 years

Chantal is a personable youth who is hard-working and enjoys helping others. She is a talented singer who also swims and plays water polo for her high school. Chantal will try any sport for fun, even roller derby and football. In the future, Chantal would like to join the Air Force and be an anesthesiologist. One day she hopes to start a foundation for troubled youth in foster care.

How to help:

Chantal would like to further develop her singing and dancing skills. Are you able to help her become a better performer?

Thanks to:

Heidi at The Bladerunner
Photographer Kate Swarthout

october 2011



notes:

Jack's Helping Hand

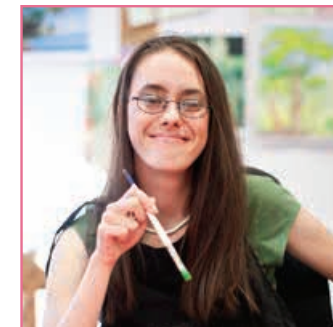
Jack's Helping Hand is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that assists children with illnesses and disabilities, providing special treatments, services, equipment and transportation that are not provided by other resources; or which exceed family financial capabilities.

Other programs include two adapted toy lending libraries, Yoga for Teens, Little Swimmers, an on-line group for parents of children with cancer, and the Jack Ready Imagination Park, a universally accessible park on donated land in Nipomo.

For more information:

jhh@jackshelpinghand.org
www.jackshelpinghand.org
805-547-1914

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Columbus Day					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24					
	Halloween					
30	31	25	26	27	28	29



Alison | 18 years

Alison has a bubbly personality and enjoys interacting with others. Alison has been a very athletic person and is proud of her accomplishment of hiking Bishop Peak. She takes interest in reading and playing the clarinet. In the future, Alison would like to be an interpreter and travel the world. She is currently learning Japanese and focusing on Okinawan.

How to help:

Alison plans to continue learning languages and study at a community college. She is also always looking for ways to increase her physical abilities. Can you help support this resilient young woman with her goals?

Thanks to:

SLO Monart
Photographer Shannon Moore

november

2011 adoption awareness month



notes:

10 Really Great Reasons to Adopt a Teen

1. No formula, diapers, bottles or burp rags required.
2. We sleep through the night... even if our parents won't.
3. We will be ready to move out sooner...but we will always come home to visit.
4. We can program your cell phones and teach you how to use your computer!
5. We will keep you up-to-date with the latest fashions and trends.
6. Once we get our permits, we can drive you places.
7. You don't just get a child, you get a friend.
8. We can pick up after ourselves and do our own laundry.
9. We will teach you how to be more patient, understanding, and empathetic.
10. We all need someone to share our life dreams, achievements and holidays with.

For more information:

805-781-1705

For additional information:

You Gotta Believe

www.yougottabelieve.org

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

		1	2	3	4	5
Daylight Savings Time Ends		Election Day			Veterans Day	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
				Thanksgiving		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Chris | 14 years

Chris is an athletic, active, and energetic young man. He enjoys all kinds of sports, especially basketball and soccer. He would love to be an NBA star and play basketball. He participates in baseball and bowling throughout the year. His other interests include cooking and rap music.

How to help:

Chris currently lives out of county and could benefit from a mentor who would play basketball and spend some time with him on a regular basis. Do you have the availability and resources to lend some support to this fabulous youth?

Thanks to:

Photographer Terry Nash

december

2011



notes:

Family Care Network Inc.

Family Care Network, Inc., a non-profit, private children and families provider, operates multiple programs designed to strengthen and preserve families and individuals.

The Mission of FCNI is to partner with the community. Individuals are invited to become mentors, tutors, interns or support volunteers, working alongside youth to enhance lives.

For more information:

www.FCNI.org
805-781-3535

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
						Christmas Eve
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Christmas						New Year's Eve
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Nicola | 18 years

Nicola is a sweet, respectful, and outgoing individual. She enjoys cooking, baking, reading, and baseball. Currently, she is going to community college. She hopes to transfer to a four-year college and study art history. Eventually, she would like to go to culinary school and open her own bakery.

How to help:

Nicola hopes to have her own car to help with transportation to and from college, as well as a mentor to help her with her desire to become a pastry chef. Do you have the resources to help her achieve these goals?

Thanks to:

Madonna Inn
Photographer Eric McClure

january 2012



notes:

Kinship Center

Kinship Center is a non-profit, state-wide agency, dedicated to the creation, preservation and support of foster care, adoptive and relative care families for children who need them. With a core belief that every child deserves a family, Kinship Center provides SLO County with a specialized mental health clinic and a kinship support program children raised by relatives.

For more information:

Ron Huxley
www.kinshipcenter.org
rhuxley@kinshipcenter.org
 805-512-7571

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
New Year's Day						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Martin Luther King Day					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

We wish to thank and acknowledge all the people who offered significant assistance throughout the development of this project.

First, recognition must be paid to the San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services Administration for all their encouragement:

Lee Collins, Director
Tracy Buckingham, Assistant Director

Thank you to Kat Lauterback, Gina Cindrich, and Jannine Lambert for all your help and commitment to this project.

Thank you to the Social Workers, ILP staff, and Chenoa Wilkerson and the CSAs for providing transportation and advice.

Thank you to the iii DESiGN team for the creative design and production of this calendar.

We also give special thanks to the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Stuart Foundation for providing the financial assistance to get this project started.

And lastly, we would especially like to thank all the businesses and photographers for volunteering their time for this project. We could not have done this without you.

Created and Developed by:
Katie Krause, Student Intern
University of California Berkeley, majoring in Social Welfare
Sherilyn Fitch, Student Intern
Cal Poly State University San Luis Obispo, majoring in Social Science

Special thanks to the following who helped make the calendar a reality for so many special young people



DR. SUSAN HOFFMAN
AIKIDO SLO
KING GARDENING SERVICES
PISMO BOWL

community partners

INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

CUESTA COLLEGE

SAFE SLO NON-PROFIT/ AIKIDO SLO




DESIGN